

DEPARTMENT REPORT NOVEMBER, 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Health Director and Environmental Health Division Manager and staff attended the Lancaster County Board's Public Hearing on the Wind Energy Text Amendment that is proposed for Lancaster County.

The Health Director and Animal Control Division Manager met with the Capital Humane Society Director and two local veterinarians regarding a spay/neuter program.

The Health Director serves on the UNMC College of Public Health Panel of Health Advisers at the Medical Center. The Health Director also serves on the Community Based Health Transformation Workgroup for the College of Public Health.

The Department hosted a Smoke-free Housing Summit for owners of multi-unit housing in the community. Over thirty landlords and property managers participated in the Summit.

The Health Director continues to meet with the Mayor's Office and the Performance Management Team.

The Health Director continues to meet with state and local public health officials regarding funding for public health. The group also met with Governor Ricketts to discuss public health priorities and increased funding for public health.

The Health Director continues to serve on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees and the Tabitha Foundation Board of Directors.

The Health Director assisted the Mayor's Office with the Fire Chief interviews. She served on one of the interview panels.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

| | Sep 13- Oct 13 | Sep 14- Oct 14 | Sep 15- Oct 15 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pet Licenses Sold | 9956 | 10211 | 10720 |
| Cases Dispatched | 4275 | 4273 | 4508 |

| | | | |
|--|------|------|------|
| Investigation | 4619 | 4629 | 4861 |
| Animals Impounded | | | |
| Dogs | 284 | 303 | 277 |
| Cats | 273 | 275 | 231 |
| Court Citations Issued | 81 | 60 | 76 |
| Warnings/Defects Issued | 2976 | 2563 | 3190 |
| Bite Cases Reported | 67 | 96 | 76 |
| Attack Cases Reported | 8 | 14 | 7 |
| Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| Dangerous Dogs | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Animal Neglect Investigations | 113 | 114 | 119 |
| Injured Animal Rescue | 152 | 169 | 191 |
| Wildlife Removal | 70 | 89 | 119 |
| Dead Animal Pickup | 391 | 441 | 404 |
| Lost and Found Reports | 407 | 474 | 421 |
| Phone Calls | 8018 | 8254 | 9250 |
| Average Response Time (in mins) | 22 | 16 | 36 |

There were over 200 people that attended the Project Homeless Connect event at the Pinnacle Bank Arena on September 29th. Animal Control and Dr. Sue Waters, DVM, assisted people with pets to obtain a pet license, rabies vaccination, nail trims and other services. Animal Control was recognized for their participation in the Project Connect for the Homeless on September 22nd by the Lincoln Homeless Coalition.

Bat calls have been on the decline. During October and November, there have been 45 bats removed from homes. After November, the bat calls will nearly stop and won't start back up again until March/April next year.

The Animal Control Field Supervisor and two other Officers are working on a training schedule that will help all the Officers stay current on field operations.

Animal Control will soon be testing software from a vendor to see if it fits the Division's needs. Once a new software/dispatch system is selected the process will start to transition from our 20 plus year old mainframe system. Staff are getting excited about the changes coming to our Division.

License sales are slightly up from the same time last year.

Deer are out and about more this time of year and the calls from the public have increased. The increased activity can be contributed to a variety of factors; including harvest, hunting season and approach of cooler winter weather.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness

A newspaper article about chlamydia was published in The Lincoln Journal Star on November 8th to raise awareness about the increased incidence, and prevention, testing & treatment options. Although national, state & county-level data was shared, trends specific to LLCHD's STI Clinic were also highlighted, such as the success of a phone follow-up intervention in lowering reinfection cases. See: http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/social-media-plays-role-in-chlamydia-battle/article_1dac09b6-1f90-5187-84c0-bcce26fbddc8.html. Our Disease Intervention Specialist, Thurman Hoskins, and our nursing staff working STI Clinic and completing phone calls are to be congratulated for their effective assessment, teaching, & follow-up.

The CDC recently published their "Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2014" report (http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats14/?s_CID=govd-std-064). National statistics of note include:

- 1) **Chlamydia**: Reported cases increased 2.8% from 2013 to 2014. The rate in women increased 1.3%. The rate in men increased 6.8%. The rate among women aged 15-19 years decreased 4.2%, continuing a decline in that group since 2011. In 2014, the overall rate of chlamydia infection in the U.S. among women was over two times the rate among men, reflecting the larger number of women screened for this infection. However, with the increased availability of urine testing, testing rates among men are increasing. During 2010-2014, the chlamydia rate in men increased 22% compared to a 6% increase in women. Chlamydia infections among African Americans were 6 times the rate in whites, and the rate among American Indians/Alaskan Natives was almost 4 times the rate among whites.
- 2) **Gonorrhea**: While rates of reported infection reached an historic low in 2009 (98.1 cases per 100,000 people), from 2009 to 2012, the rate increased slightly each year to 106.7 cases per 100,000 in 2012. In 2013, the rate decreased again to 105.3, although not as low as the 2009 rate. In 2014, the national gonorrhea rate increased to 110.7 cases per 100,000. The increase in gonorrhea rate during 2013 was observed primarily among men in every region of the U.S., while the rate among women decreased in some regions including the Midwest. The rate remains highest among African-Americans – 10.6 times the rate among whites. Gonorrhea rates among American Indians/Alaskan Natives was 4.2 times that of whites. Antimicrobial resistance remains an important factor in the treatment of Gonorrhea.
- 3) **Syphilis**: In 2000 and 2001, the national rate of reported primary and secondary syphilis cases was 2.1 cases per 100,000 people, the lowest rate since reporting began in 1941. However rates of primary and secondary syphilis have increased almost every year since

2001. In 2014, the national syphilis rate increased to 6.3 cases per 100,000, the highest rate since 1994. In 2014, men accounted for 91% of all cases of syphilis, and of those male cases for whom the gender of the partner was known, 83% were men who have sex with men. Reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis continue to be have a high rate of HIV co-infection. Rates of syphilis among women increased 22% between 2013 and 2014. In 2013, the rate of congenital syphilis marked the first increase since 2008 at 9.1 cases per 100,000 live births.

“Connecting the Uninsured” Training

On November 13th, 70 local case workers attended a training at LLCHD entitled “Connecting the Uninsured”. The objective was to increase the knowledge of local case workers regarding health benefits for low-income, uninsured people living in Lancaster County. Partners helping LLCHD develop this training included: Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties, Enroll Nebraska, and People’s Health Center. Topics included eligibility, application and referral processes for the following options: Nebraska Medicaid, Nebraska Economic Assistance, Lancaster County General Assistance, the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare Assistance for Low-Income Seniors and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR).

Participants were represented from the following agencies: Aging Partners, Blue Valley Behavioral Health, CEDARS Youth Services, Center for People in Need, CenterPointe, Clinic With A Heart, Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties, Fresh Start, Friendship Home, Lancaster County General Assistance, Lancaster County Medical Society, League of Human Dignity, Legal Aid of Nebraska, Lutheran Family Services, Mary Kay Hansen Law & Mediation, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Nebraska Department of Corrections/Reentry Program, Nebraska Appleseed, People’s Health Center, St. Monica’s, TASC, and VA Justice Outreach/Healthcare Reentry.

Thirty (30) out of 70 participants completed an evaluation survey of the training. Results were as follows:

- 66% said 51-100% of their current caseload is comprised of uninsured individuals.
- 100% said they increased their knowledge of health benefits for low-income, uninsured people living in Lancaster County or that they already had a complete understanding, but the refresher was helpful.
- 100% said they know who to contact in the future with their questions about specific benefits discussed in the training (87% for all benefits discussed and 13% for some, but not all benefits discussed).
- 67% said they were likely or very likely to attend this training next year or watch the training on-line.
- 80% said they increased their knowledge of Medicare benefits & the services of Aging Partners modestly or a great deal.

- 73% said they increased their knowledge of Nebraska Economic Assistance benefits & application processes modestly or a great deal.
- 70% said they increased their knowledge of Lancaster County General Assistance benefits & application processes modestly or a great deal.
- 66% said they increased their knowledge of Nebraska Medicaid benefits & application process modestly or a great deal.
- 62% said they increased their knowledge of the SOAR program & how to refer to this CenterPointe program modestly or a great deal.
- 40% said they increased their knowledge of Health Insurance Marketplace benefits & application processes modestly or a great deal.

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Total | 3713 |
| Main | 2851 |
| Cornhusker Clinic | 862 |
| %Enrolled with Benefits | 82.06% |

| | LLCHD | State of Nebraska |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Total Women | 904 (24.34%) | 7443 (22.98%) |
| Total Children | 1959 (52.76%) | 16856 (52.05%) |
| Total Infants | 850 (22.89%) | 8081 (24.95%) |
| Infants Receiving Breastmilk | 281 (33.05%) | 2290 (28.3%) |
| Infants Exclusive Breastmilk | 102 (12.00%) | 845 (10.45%) |

Mentoring:

| | (Number and school) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Students | 1-UNL |
| Interns | |
| Volunteers | 1 UNL- RD |
| LMEP Residents | 1 LMEP Resident |

Our October caseload was up 1.65% from September. This was our highest caseload since January 2015. Our partial and exclusive breastfeeding numbers continue to be well above the state rates. With the new Journey computer system we are no longer able to track monthly food obligations.

Dental Health

Total number of clients served during all clinic hours (unduplicated count): 589

-Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 764

-Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 1096

-Total number of Racial/Ethnic and other White Non-English speaking patients (Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Russian, Ukranian): 459 (78%)

-Total number of children served: 388 (66%)

-Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 397 (67%)

-Total number of clients that identified another language as their primary language: 300 (51%)
Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Farsi, French, Karen, Kurdish, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, Other.

-Clients served during **Thursday evening hours** (unduplicated count): 74

-Client encounters during Thursday evening hours (duplicated client count): 77

-Patient visits during Thursday evening hours (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 127

-Racial/Ethnic and other White Non-English speaking patients (Arabic, Kurdish) during Thursday evening hours: 58 (78%)

-Children served during Thursday evening hours: 68 (92%)

-Patients enrolled in Medicaid during Thursday evening hours: 49 (66%)

-Total number of clients that identified another language as their primary language: 44 (59%)
Arabic, Chinese, Karen, Kurdish, Spanish, Vietnamese, Other.

Outreach Activities: 397 children screened in school based activities.

-School based dental screening at Waverly Elementary and Intermediate Schools – 120 children

-School based dental screening at Eagle Elementary School – 106

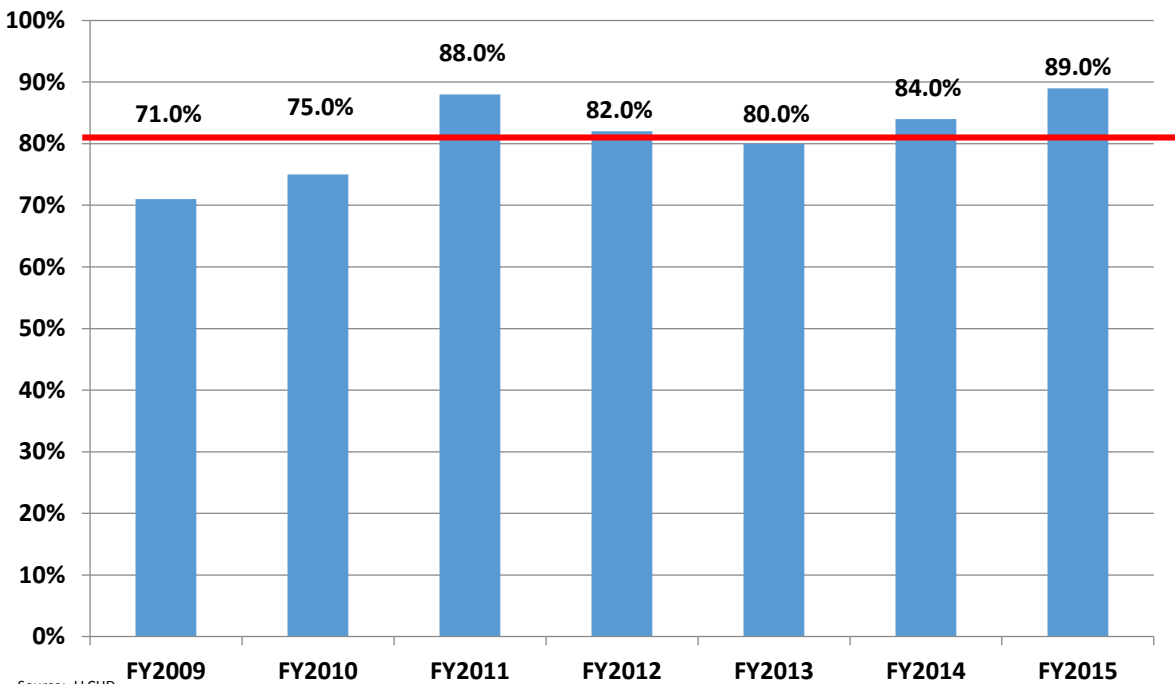
-School based dental screening at Norwood Elementary School – 56

-School based dental screening at Elliott Elementary School - 115

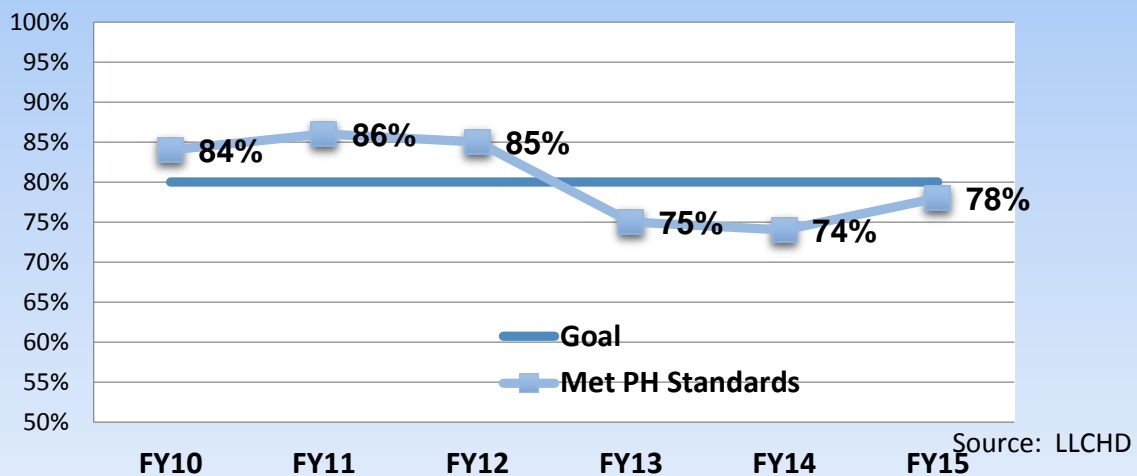
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Public Health FY15 - The Year in Numbers

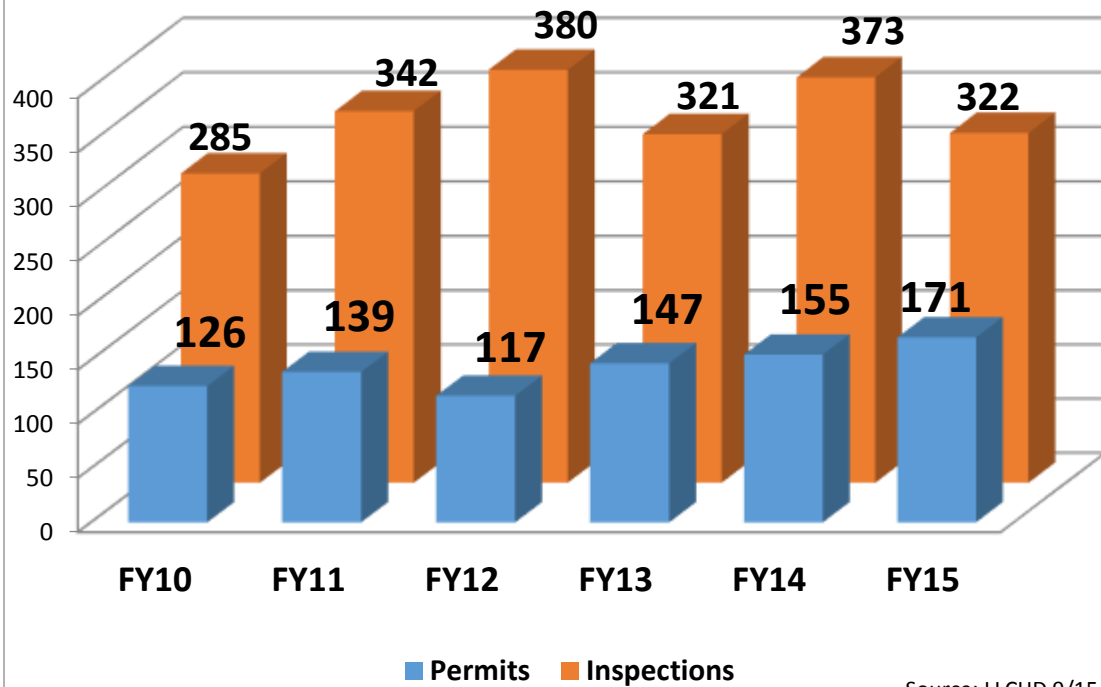
Assure that at least 80% of industries pose minimal risk of illicit discharge to the stormwater system



Public Swimming Pools % Meeting Public Health Standards

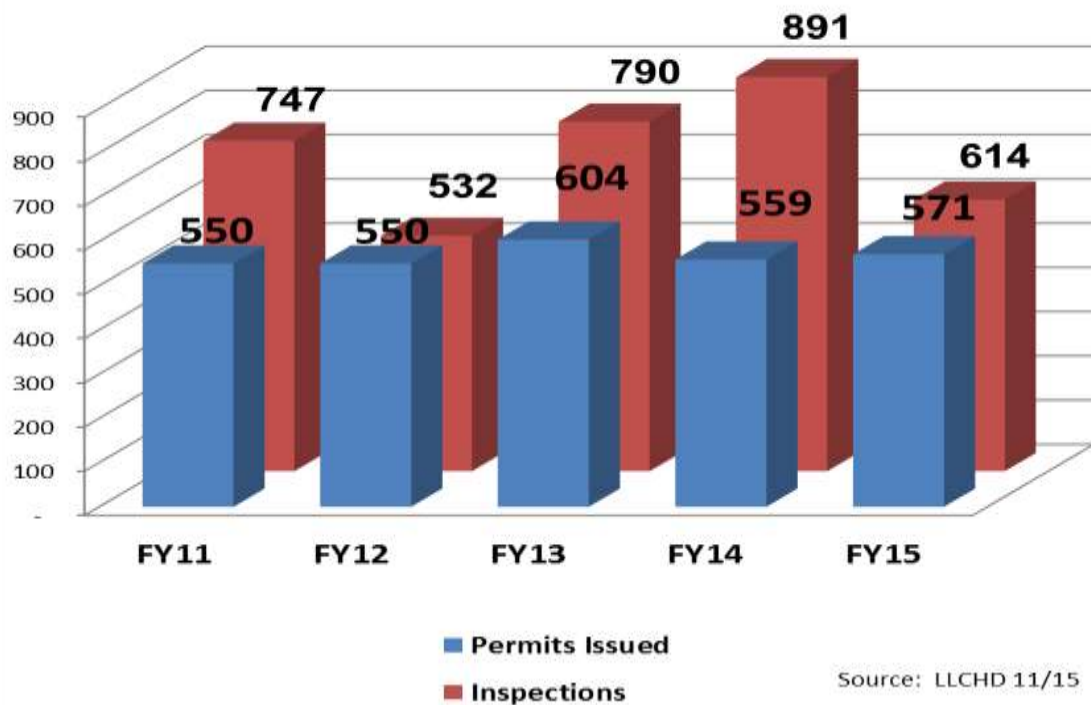


Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



Source: LLCHD 9/15

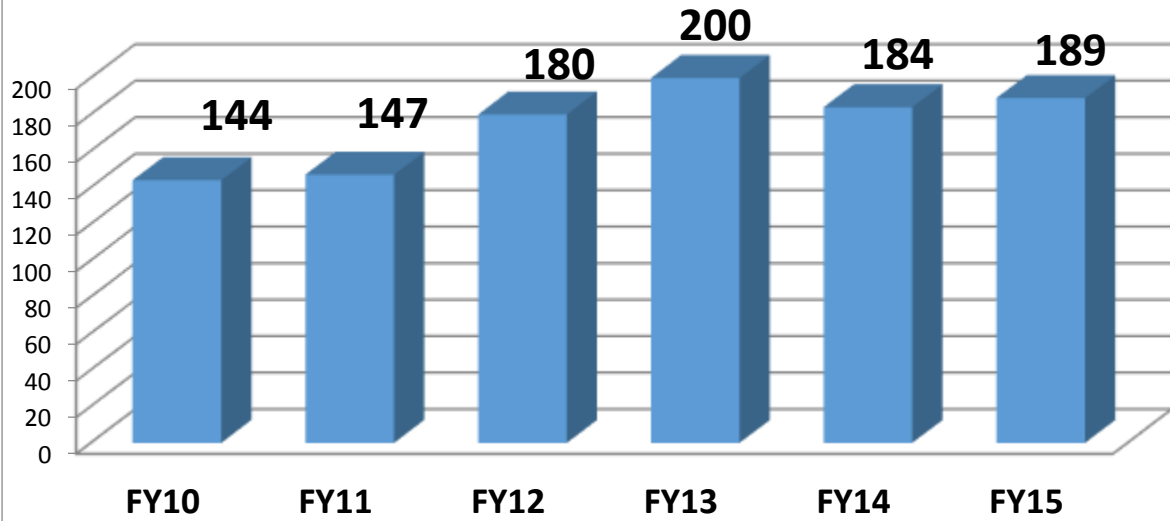
Water Wells Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



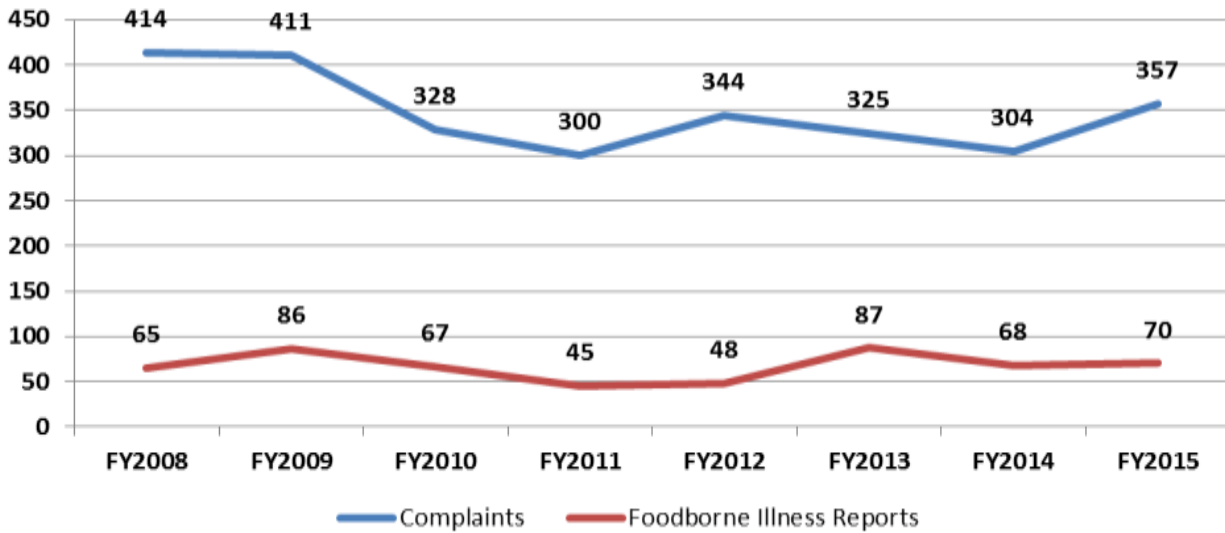
Source: LLCHD 11/15

Property Transfer Reviews

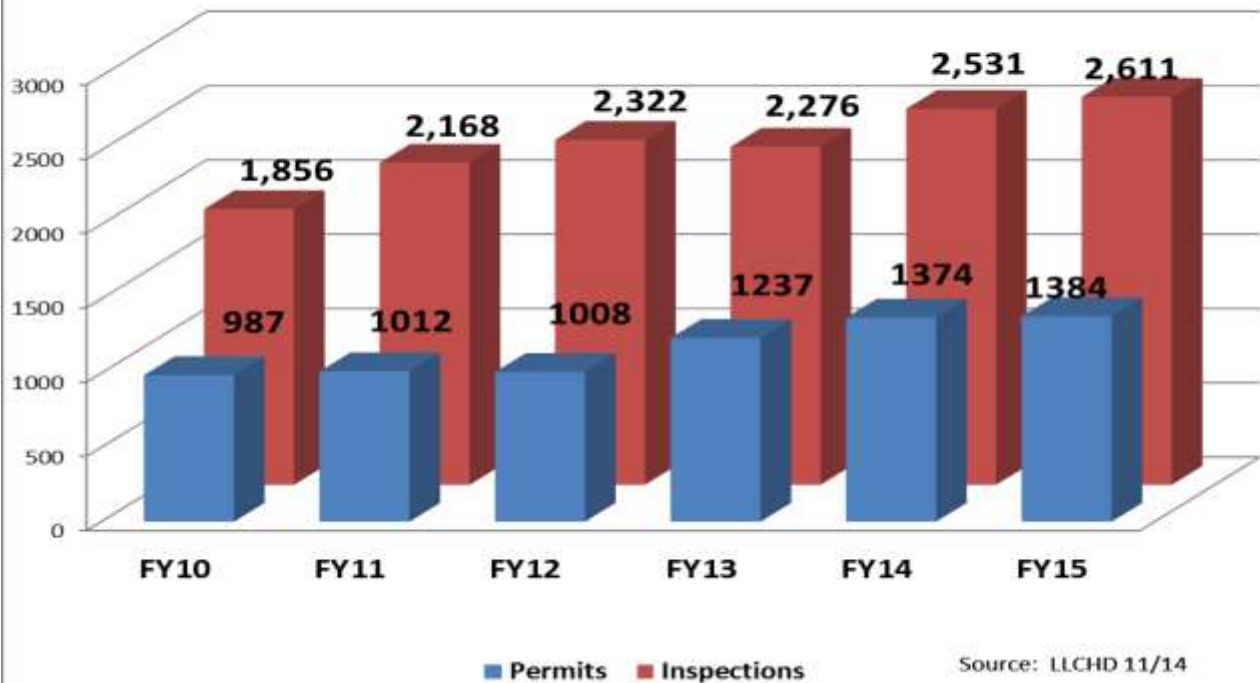
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



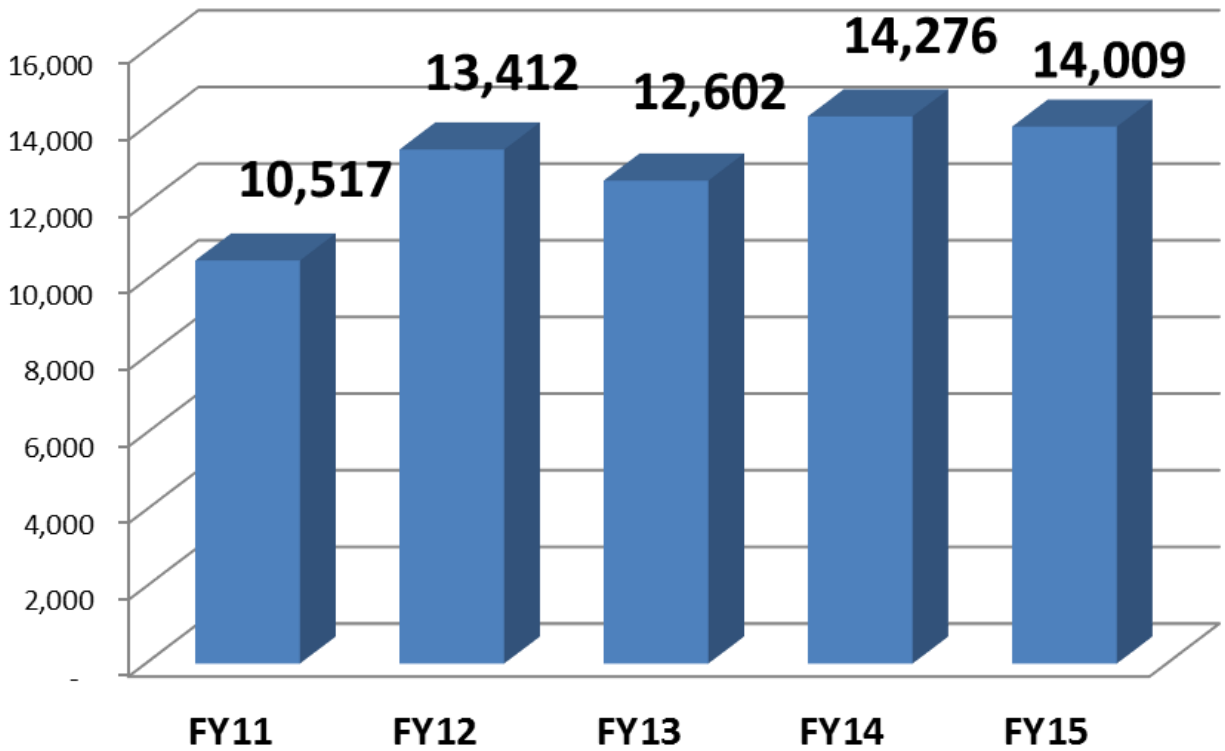
Maintain Number of Food Safety Complaints at less than 325 per year and Foodborne Illness Reports at less than 50 per year



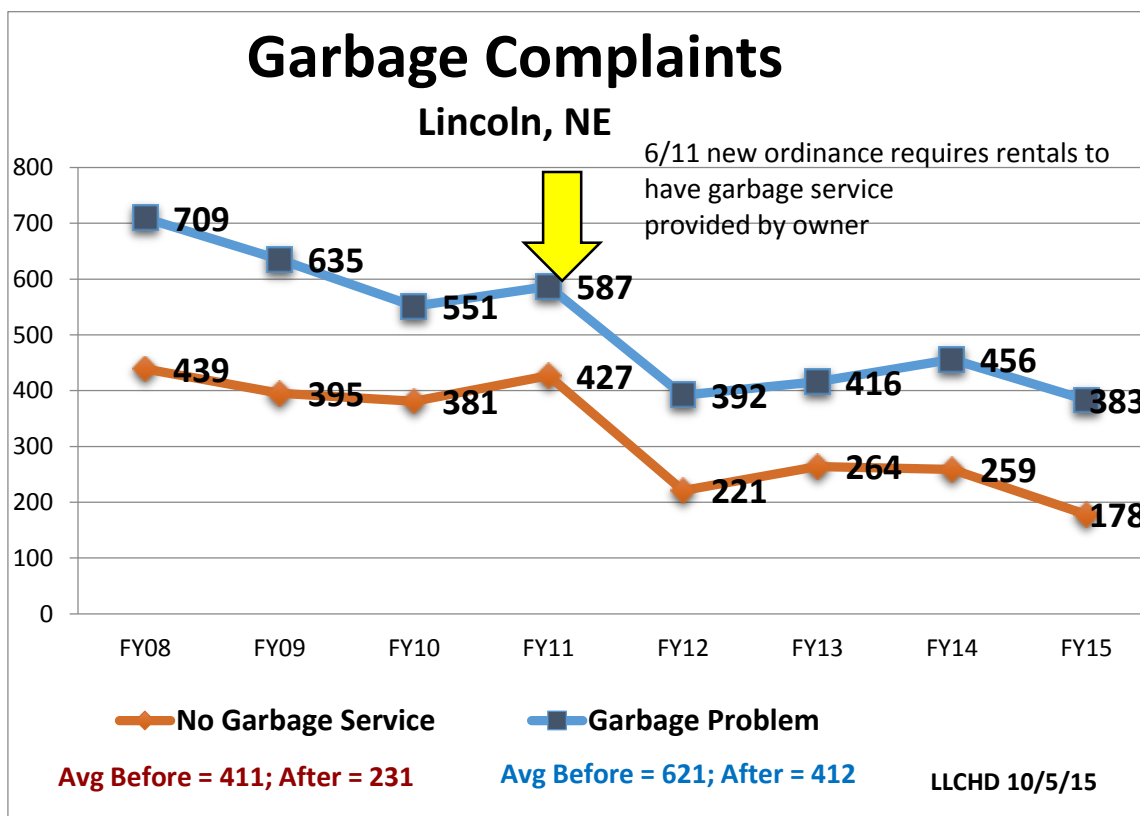
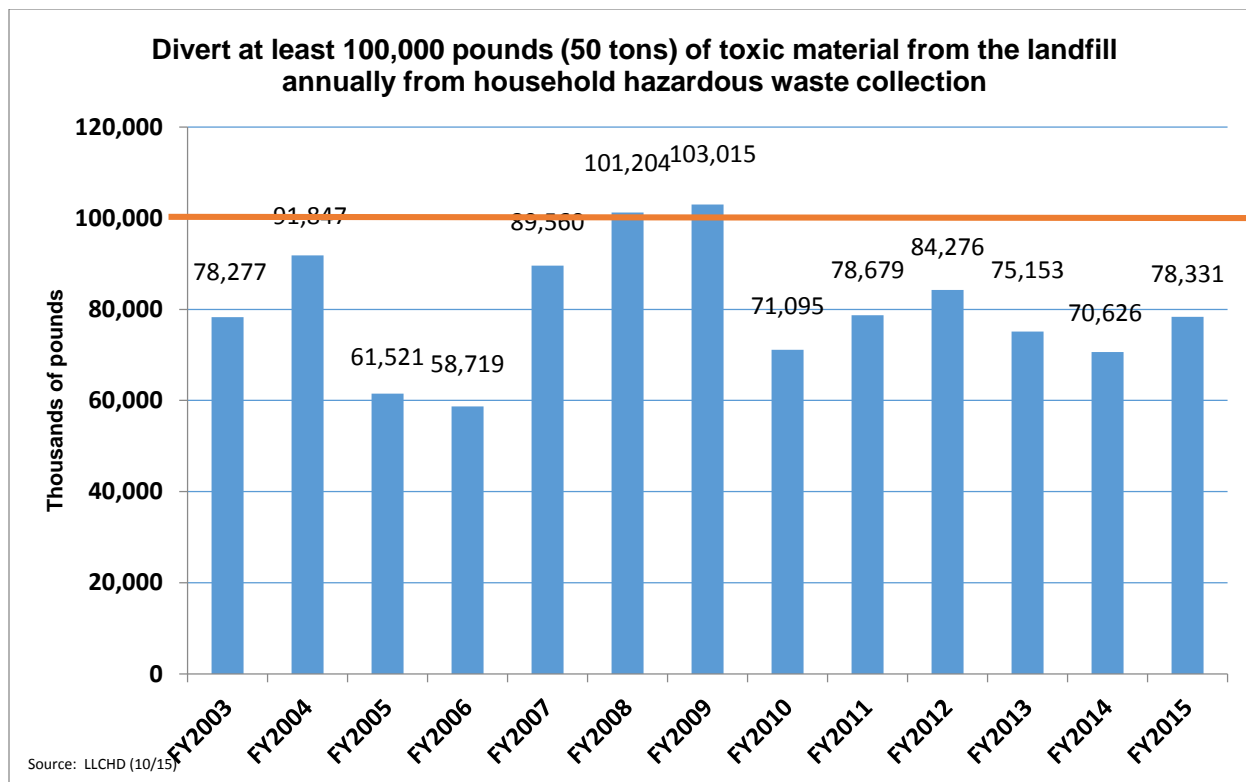
**Food Establishments Permits and Inspections
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department**



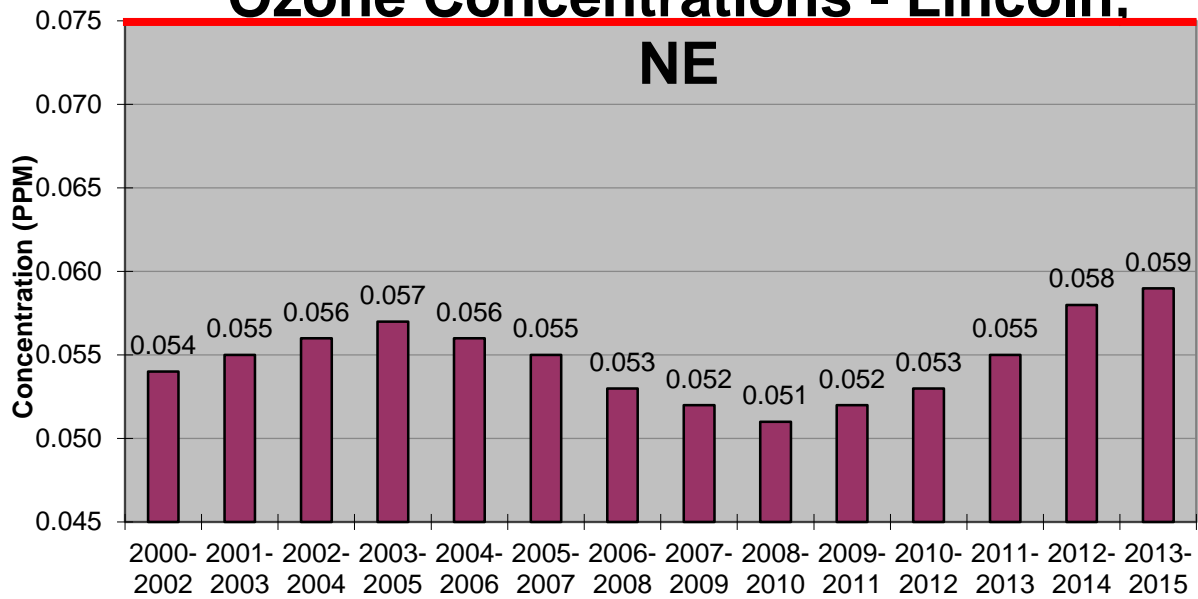
Food Handler Permits Issued
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



Source: LLCHD 11/15

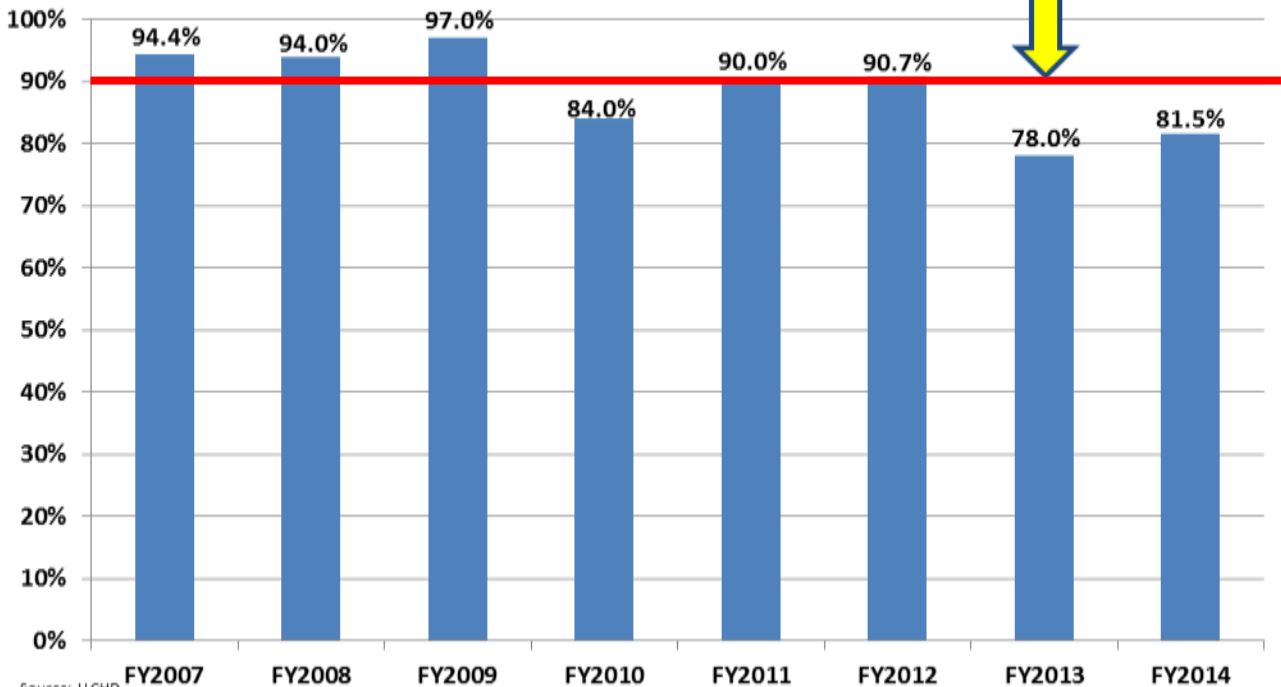


Three Year Averages 4th Highest Ozone Concentrations - Lincoln, NE



Maintain "Good" Air Quality at Least 90% of Days Measured

New, Lower Federal Standard



HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

Flu activity remains low in Lincoln and Lancaster County and the state. Nationally, flu activity has increased slightly and the few confirmed flu cases are mostly of a type (H3N2) that is matched to this year's flu vaccine. Despite the relatively low flu activity currently anyone who has put off getting a flu vaccination should do so now, especially with the many typical Holiday gatherings and travel to and from other areas of the U.S. It takes two weeks to develop immunity from the flu vaccination and everyone six months or older should seek a flu vaccination to prevent getting the flu.

Our Communicable Disease staff post the flu activity report weekly on the Health Department's website (<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/>) where you will find a narrative Weekly Flu Summary and also the Weekly Flu Graphs based on reports from provider practices, hospital inpatient admissions for flu-like illness, and school absences for flu-like illness.

The focus of HDE's community health assessment is now on updating the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and a Community Health Profile for dissemination to the MAPP committee members as well as the public. The HDE Division Manager recently met with staff from Bryan Health and CHI St. Elizabeth hospitals to share information they need for their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that they are required to submit to the IRS every three years. Just this week, HDE received some additional 2014 data from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that are being added to the Community Health Profile. Once the documents are finalized they will be posted on the website and we will solicit feedback from the general public. The Information on the MAPP process, meeting PowerPoints and findings can be found at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/MAPP.htm> and that is also where the Community Health Profile and updated Community Health Improvement Plan will be posted upon completion.

The HDE Division Manager, our Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator along with the Health Director and a staff person from EPH attended the local THIRA (Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) sponsored by Lancaster County Emergency Management and conducted by UNL's Public Policy Center. The THIRA requires 32 elements and there were 118 members from across the community who analyzed three different emergency disasters and then addressed the effects on each of the elements. The Public Policy Center will compile the information and submit it to back to Lancaster County Emergency Manager for their required assessment.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTRECH

Chronic Disease Prevention

The City and County Wellness Coordinator, along with the Wellness Committees from both the City and the County, promoted the Great American Smokeout to all employees – those who use tobacco and those who have a family member who uses tobacco. Leading up to November 19th, the actual Smokeout date, employees received tips on tobacco cessation, viewed cessation displays in the Health Department and the County City Building, and had the opportunity to retrieve a packet of cessation material including an entrance form for a cold turkey raffle. Eighty-one City and County employees entered the raffle (46 from 12 City Departments, and 35 from 10 County Departments), and 10 lucky entrants (5 City and 5 County) won 15 pound turkeys. All 81 who participated will receive a follow-up email from the Wellness COORDINATOR to offer further assistance in their attempts to quit using tobacco. She will remain available to help them as they continue to try to quit tobacco. The theme this year was, “Quit Like a Champion!”

Staff continue to assist in the planning and implementation of the N Street Cycle Track (aka Protected Bikeway) and the proposed Bike Share project. An educational video to build awareness of how to use the N Street Cycle Track was produced with the help of dozens of volunteers who donned their bike helmets and braved the cold to show the public how to properly use the Cycle Track. Thanks to Channel 10 Health for doing the filming and for making the video available.

Injury Prevention

Staff applied for and received a \$7,500 grant from Safe Kids Nebraska to create educational videos for pedestrians with the emphasis on children and parents. The topics that will be featured are: distracted pedestrians, drop-off and pick-up behaviors at schools, and crosswalk navigation. These educational videos will be produced in conjunction with Channel 10 Health as part of the Share the Road Campaign.

Tobacco Prevention

Following a presentation in May by AIRE Nebraska staff (an asthma partner in the School Community tobacco grant), the Denton Village Board voted on June 1st to adopt an outdoor tobacco-free policy that covers the park, ball field, and community owned facilities.

Staff coordinated a Smoke Free Housing Summit for managers/owners of multi-unit housing properties. 35 landlords and property managers participated in interactive presentations on causes of fire (carelessly discarded cigarettes being one of the primary causes), steps to take to become smokefree, and development and implementation of policies to support smokefree housing. Evaluations from the attendees indicated plans to use the information they received to either implement smokefree policies or strengthen compliance with their existing policies.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Information Management staff are assisting Animal Control to select software that will support all of their core functions: Dispatch, Licensing, Revenue, Field Work and Reporting.

The Division is actively working on succession planning. A number of key staff are likely to be retiring over the next two to three years. We are currently focusing on cross training as well as reviewing and improving documentation.

HIPAA Risk Assessment for the Health Department is in the final phase as we begin to review data collected and analyze it. A final report with findings and recommendations will be completed in the first quarter of 2015.